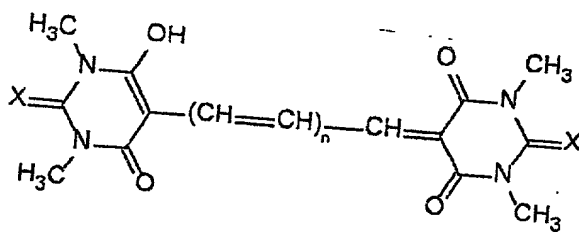


ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention encompasses an improved method for measuring membrane potential using compounds of the formula I as potentiometric probes. These probes may be used in combination with other fluorescent indicators such as Indo-1, Fura-2, and Fluo-3, such probes may be used in microplate reading devices such as FLIPR™, fluorescent imaging plate reader, sold by Molecular Device Corp., of Sunnyvale, CA; flow cytometers; and fluorometers. Such probes are used to measure membrane potential in live cells.



X: is O, or S. n is 1 or 2.

I